

Moses

From the Journal of Andrew Fjeld

Moses the great law giver, leader, judge and founder of the nation of Israel, was born in slavery about sixteen hundred years before the birth of Christ. He was a son of Amran and his mother's name was Jochebed, she was a sister of his father's father and both were of the tribe of Levi.

At the time when Moses was born the Hebrews were under orders from the king of the land to drown all of the male children at birth for the Egyptians were fearful that the Hebrews, who were their slaves, would soon outnumber them.

When Moses was born he was such a goodly child that his mother decided that she would save his life if possible. For the first three months of his life he was kept from the gaze of the public, especially the slave driving Egyptians. At the end of that time she devised another means to save his life.

She built a little boat of bulrushes and daubed it with tar to make it water tight and on this little floating raft she made a bed and placed her sleeping baby in it and set it among the reeds on the edge of the River Nile.

Soon after a group of young ladies came to the river to bathe and in the group was a daughter of the king who soon spied this little strange looking craft on the water and asked one of her maids to bring it to her. To her great surprise she found a plump baby boy, who on being disturbed began to cry very pitifully. This touched the heart of the princess and she said that she would adopt this babe as her very own. At this moment, a little girl, an older sister of the baby, approached the princess and asked if she should get a nurse for the baby. She was told to do so and she very promptly brought the mother of the babe to the princess. The princess engaged the woman, whom she did not know was the mother, to nurse the baby until it was weaned and then bring him to her in the palace of the king. Thus the little slave boy became a member of the king's family, lived in the palace, and was

educated in all the learning of the Egyptians, who at this time was one of the most forward nations of the earth.

Thanks to the teachings of a very devoted mother, Moses never lost sight of the fact that he was a Hebrew and heir to all the promises that the Lord had made concerning the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

One day when he was about forty years of age he seen a cruel slave driving Egyptian beating up on one of his countrymen. This aroused his ire to such an extent that he pitched in on the Egyptian with such fury that before he was aware he had killed the man. Seeing no one around he buried the man in the sand, but it became known and to save his life Moses left Egypt between two days and fled into the land of Midian. Midian is on the east side of the Red Sea. The Midianites were descendants of Midian, a son of Abraham and Keturah.

Moses, no doubt, was very lonely in this land where the main occupation seemed to be that of the sheep industry. The sheep were watered from wells in this desert country and at one of these watering places Moses seated himself. He had not long to wait when seven girls, the daughters of a priest and prominent man of the country came and began filling the troughs with water from the well to water their sheep.

When the girls undertook to water their sheep some mischievous shepherds in the neighborhood came and drove the sheep away and brought their own flocks to drink. This was too much for this justice loving Egyptian Hebrew and with great energy he drove the intruding flocks away and helped the girls to bring their sheep back to the well for water. When the girls returned home their father inquired how it was that they had finished their task so early, and of course they explained how a very fine Egyptian had helped them in their trouble with the other troublesome shepherds. Jethro, the father, told the girls to bring the man in and this was the beginning of a very warm friendship between this man, his family and Moses.

Moses married one of Jethro's daughters and continued in his service for forty years.

One day while he was tending to his flocks a very peculiar thing happened which changed the whole course of his life once more. In the distance he noticed a large bush on fire burning very briskly. There was something rather peculiar about this fire so he went nearer to it to investigate. He noticed that although the fire roared away it did not burn the bush and then to his astonishment, a voice spoke to him out of the bush telling him that he was on holy ground and for him to remove his shoes from his feet. Then to his utter surprise he was told that it was the Lord speaking to him and that he was called on a most special and important mission of going into Egypt and bringing the Israelites out and freeing them from slavery.

No wonder that Moses was overwhelmed with astonishment at such a prodigious undertaking. He made all sorts of excuses which were all overruled by the Lord, who wanted him to go to the king himself and ask him to consent for His people to move out boldly from the land of Egypt. The Lord promised to help Moses to lead them to a land that flowed with milk and honey.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

- 1- Thou shalt have no other Gods before me.
- 2- Thou shalt not make any, or bow down to.
- 3- Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
- 4- Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- 5- Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.
- 6- Thou shalt not kill.
- 7- Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- 8- Thou shalt not steal.
- 9- Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
- 10- Thou shalt not covet anything that is thy neighbor's.

(Some data collected for a talk that I was not called on to give at the 88th Stake Conference held September 3, 1950. No Regrets. Andrew Fjeld)

Transposed by Bonnie Hardman